# Understanding the Smoking Pipes of the Dorchester Iroquoian Village

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## About the Dorchester Site

The Dorchester Village Site is a Middle Iroquoian Village that is located in the town of Dorchester, Ontario. The village is located on a long sandy ridge that overlooks the Thames River. It has been known to the locals for decades. However, it was not until 2003 that the site became the focus of mitigation. In 2004, the Stage 4 mitigation of the Iroquoian village began and was carried out Timmins Martelle Heritage Consulting Inc. (Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultation Inc., 2004).

A total of seventeen longhouses were documented on the site. Each with a multitude of different features. The site was determined to represent at least two, but possible three or more different occupations during the Middle Iroquoian period (1300 to 1400 AD) (Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultation Inc., 2004).

Numerous human burial interments were also discovered to be scattered throughout the site area. The Oneida of the Thames First Nation were consulted regarding their long-term care (Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultation Inc., 2004)..

An unrecognized early 19th century EuroCanadian pioneer site was also discovered. However, the historic artifacts recovered were not included in this artifact analysis. report.

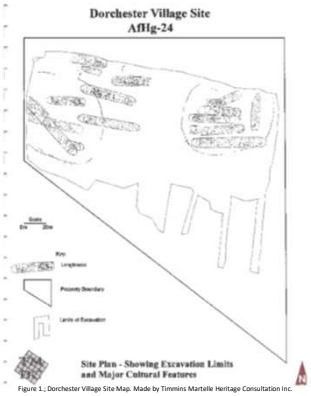


Figure 1.; Dorchester Village Site Map. Made by Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultation Inc.

## Research Objective

To describe the smoking pipes from the Dorchester site in SW Ontario. In order to formulate a more complete picture of smoking pipes in Middle Ontario Iroquoian sites of SW Ontario.

## Method

Step 1: Cross-mend study.

- All the pipe and pipe fragments were laid out on tables organized by house number.
- The pipe bowl fragments, and distinctive stem fragments were cross referenced and compared to each other.
- Generated physical and inferred matches were recorded in a spreadsheet.

Step 2: Pipe Attribute Analysis.

- An attribute analysis form and a coding reference sheet were created.
- A detailed analysis of all the pipes and pipe fragments was conducted.
- All findings were recorded on the pipe attribute analysis form.

Step 3: Intra-site Comparisons

The parameters of comparison were:

- Evidence of attributes clusters within houses?
- Is there a correlations between pipe density and other evidence of duration of stay?
- Assemblage Variability
  - What attributes were present?
  - In what frequency?

Figure 2; Dorchester Smoking Pipe. Cat No. 867

Figure 3.: Stage 4 House 4 Artifact Sample. Created by Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultation Inc.

## Attribute Analysis Results

There were several different attributes present throughout the collection, such as pipe type and bowl decoration technique. Illustrated bellow are a few of these attributes.

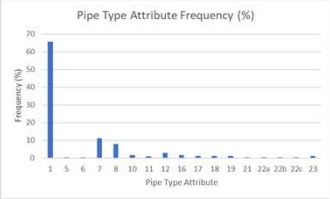


Figure 4.: A bar graph depicting the pipe type attribute frequencies.

Depicted to the left is the pipe type attribute frequencies. The most common pipe type was found to be unapplicable or type 1. This pipe type encompasses most of the unmatched pipe stem fragments, along with the pipe bowl fragments that are too small to determine type.

The second most common type was cylindrical plain type or type 7. This type encompass the pipes and bowl fragments that fit McCartney's (2018) illustration of the type.

Illustrated to the right is the bowl decoration attribute frequencies. The most common decoration technique was plain. This techniques indicates that no design was added to the pipe bowls. The second most common technique used was incising. Followed closely by the technique of using both incising and punctuates.

It was also noted that some of the pipes contained lip notching and decoration, that varied from the technique used on the exterior of the bowl.

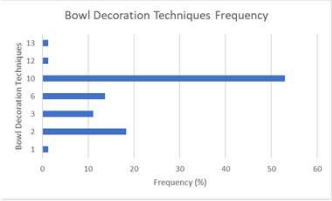


Figure 5.: A bar graph illustrating the bowl decoration technique frequencies.

## Conclusions

It was found that the most common pipe type for the Dorchester smoking pipes was cylindrical plain, and that the decoration technique most used was incising. It was also discovered that there was less cross-house mends between fragments than original anticipated.

It was concluded that future research should be conducted in order to determine a more in-depth understanding of the significance of these findings.

Future research should also be geared towards formulating a more complete picture of smoking pipes in Middle Ontario Iroquoian sites of SW Ontario.

Finally, a more through cross-mend study should be conducted for the smoking pipes of the Dorchester Village site. As the cross-mend study conducted here was more of a preliminary study.

## References

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## Land Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-beek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lunaapeewak (Len-ahpay-wek) and Attawanadron (Add-a-won-da-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. With this, I respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute towards revealing and correcting miseducation. As well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.